



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

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## ***NASA Administrator Announces “Flags For Heroes and Families” Campaign***

In a unique extension of a tradition that dates back to the beginning of human space flight, NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin announced that the next mission of Space Shuttle Endeavour will honor the victims of last month’s terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

In announcing the “Flags for Heroes and Families” campaign, Administrator Goldin said thousands of American flags will be carried into space by Endeavor and its seven member crew and will be distributed to the victims’ families and survivors of the September attacks.



*Decal for STS 108, Endeavour*

“The ‘Flags for Heroes and Families’ campaign is a way for us to honor and show our support for the thousands of brave men and women who have selflessly contributed to the relief and recovery efforts,” said Administrator Goldin. “The American flags are a patriotic symbol of our strength and solidarity, and our Nation’s resolve to prevail.”

As part of this NASA-sponsored effort, nearly 6,000 American flags will be carried into orbit aboard STS-108, Endeavour. STS-108 is currently scheduled for lift-off from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center on November 29.

“NASA wanted to come up with an appropriate tribute to the people who lost their lives in the tragic events of September 11,” added Administrator Goldin. “America’s space program has a long history of carrying items into space to commemorate historic events, acts of courage and dramatic achievements. ‘Flags for Heroes and Families’ is a natural extension of this ongoing outreach project.”

The legacy of flying American flags to space started in 1961 with the flight of the first American astronaut, Alan

Shepard. Students from Cocoa Beach Elementary School in Florida purchased a flag from a local department store, which later was rolled up and placed between cables behind Shepard’s head inside his Freedom 7 Mercury spacecraft.



The flags carried into orbit as part of the “Flags for Heroes and Families” effort will be returned to Earth at the end of STS-108, mounted on specially designed memorial certificates. They will be presented to the survivors and families of the victims in New York and the Pentagon, and to the families of the heroes killed aboard United Airlines flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania.

Administrator Goldin presented the city of New York and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani with an American flag carried into space on a previous space shuttle flight.

The Administrator announced plans to present new flags to each New York fire house and police precinct that has played a role in the rescue and recovery efforts.

“We feel ‘Flags for Heroes and Families’ is a fitting tribute from our Nation’s space program to honor those affected by this American tragedy,” concluded Administrator Goldin. “The entire NASA family has come together with a historic display of unity on a project designed to comfort all who have been touched by these horrific events.”

STS-108 will be the 12th space shuttle mission to visit the International Space Station.

Endeavour will deliver the Expedition Four Crew — Commander Yuri Onufrienko of Rosaviakosmos and American Flight Engineers Carl Walz and Dan Bursch — and return the Expedition Three crew home to Earth. Dominic Gorie will command STS-108, and Mark Kelly will serve as pilot. Astronauts Linda Godwin and Daniel Tani are mission specialists for this flight.

Additional information about STS-108 and the International Space Station is available on the Internet at: <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>

## ***NASA Smart Surgical Probe to Begin Clinical Tests***

A revolutionary early breast cancer-detection tool based on NASA technology will begin human clinical trials after receiving the go-ahead from the Food and Drug Administration.

The “Smart Surgical Probe,” is set to begin human testing on volunteer patients at the University of California (UC) Medical Center in Davis and at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

“This device is being developed to make real-time, detailed interpretations of breast tissue at the tip of the needle,” said Dr. Robert Mah, Smart Surgical Probe developer, of NASA Ames Research Center. “The instrument may allow health care providers to make expert, accurate diagnoses as well as to suggest proper, individualized treatment, even for patients in remote areas,” he said.

The probe is a small, disposable needle with multiple sensors. This technology and resulting product may enable physicians to diagnose tumors without surgery, thereby dramatically reducing the number of unnecessary breast biopsies women undergo annually.

Smart Probe’s sensors begin gathering information the moment the needle is inserted into tissue. Computer software eventually will compare the real-time measurements to a set of known, archived parameters that indicate the presence or absence of cancer, and display the results on a computer screen.

Over 200 patients who are scheduled for a surgical biopsy will be invited to volunteer to be tested with the Smart Probe prior to their medical procedure. Recorded data then will be used to “teach” the probe to distinguish cancerous tissue from benign.

“This is an exciting technology that has immediate and future promise to improve the treatment of breast cancer,” said Laura Esserman, M.D., MBA, director of the Carol Franc Buck Breast Care Center at the UCSF Comprehensive Cancer Center.

“I also am excited by the possibility that this technology would help us to evaluate the presence of residual disease at the time of surgical excision, thereby reducing the need for additional surgery for women who are being treated using breast conservation.”

**Heightened Security  
Awareness for Safe Mail  
Handling**

During this time of heightened security awareness, the GSFC Mail Services Center is taking every precaution to identify suspicious mail. Thus, all incoming letters and packages are screened using X-ray equipment.

Mail Services personnel are trained and skilled in using this equipment. They are especially trained to recognize the visual characteristics typically associated with suspicious letters and packages.

GSFC Mail Services Center personnel visually examine and inspect incoming mail. If a suspicious letter or package is identified, the Mail Services Center immediately isolates the mail piece and notifies x1333.

Ultimately, the mail is delivered to you. You must also practice safe mail-handling procedures. Before opening the mail, look for the following characteristics - \*Significant Suspicious Indicators

- ...Excessive postage.\*
- ... Postmark location does not match the return address (e.g., City, State, Country).\*
- ... Protruding wires.\*
- ... Lopsided or uneven in weight or appearance.\*
- ... Rigid or bulky in appearance.\*
- ... Strange or questionable odor.\*
- ... Oily stains, discoloration, or crystallization on wrapper or mailer.\*
- ... Excessive tape or string.\*
- ... Powders, stains, or residues.\*
- ... No return address and/or restrictive markings (e.g., Personal or Confidential).
- ... Possible mail from a foreign country.
- ... Misspelled words.
- ... Addressed to an organizational title only, or to a name and incorrect title.
- ... Handwritten or poorly typed address.

Common sense is the best defense. If the letter or package appears suspicious, immediately follow these procedures:

- ... Call x1333.
- ... Limit handling and handle with care (e.g., no shaking or bumping).
- ... Isolate the letter or package.
- ... Do not open, smell, or taste.

For more safe mail handling procedures go to: <http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/goddardnews/20011019/safe.html>

**Student Intern Michelle Nock**



*Digital photo courtesy of M. Hylbert*  
**Michelle Nock, Nandua High School senior, is taking part in Accomack County Schools' Internship Program. She will be spending 140 hours of the fall semester with mentor, Mark Hylbert, Litton/PRC.**

**Now is the time for you to  
make a difference!**

Now you have a chance to implement or change services offered by the Wallops Cafeteria. Simply to to the Cafeteria Web Site and complete the survey:<http://wff-aerobee.wff.nasa.gov/cafe/>

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association (WEMA) appreciates any comments and will consider all reasonable requests and suggestions!

Remember, if you don't voice your complaints and suggestions to the right person, things will never change, so make a difference today.

Change Is Good!  
Change Keeps Us From Becoming Stagnant.  
Change Offers Challenge.  
Change Often Brings Out The Best In Us!

**Spaghetti Dinner**

**November 16  
6:30 p.m.  
Building F-3**

- Menu
- Appetizers
  - Spaghetti with tomato or meatball sauce
  - Salad
  - Garlic Bread
  - Homemade Dessert
  - Beverages

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. To purchase tickets contact Sandy Gunter on x1454 or Karen Thornes, x2020.

**For Sale**

Full set of CB drums.  
In good condition.  
\$375.00. Call Jeff or Delores at (757) 336-5579 after 5 p.m.



**New Agencywide Standards  
Update Notification System**

The NASA Technical Standards Program Office announces the availability of its Agencywide Standards Update Notification System (SUNS).

This System will provide NASA staff and its supporting contractors with Web access to make specific requests for update notifications on technical standards in use. The System will automatically notify individuals of updates (revisions, cancellations, superseded documents, etc.) to Technical Standards Products for which notifications are requested.

SUNS is integrated with the Agencywide Full-Text Technical Standards System for updated Standards Product acquisition.

Anyone within the <nasa.gov> domain can access either System at the NASA Technical Standards Program Website: <http://standards.nasa.gov>.

If you have any questions regarding the SUNS, please contact Brenda Bailey at (256) 544-1889 or by e-mail: [brenda.bailey@msfc.nasa.gov](mailto:brenda.bailey@msfc.nasa.gov).

The goal of the NASA Technical Standards Program is to provide a "One-Stop Shop" for Technical Standards and related information needed by the Agency's staff and supporting contractors in support of NASA program's and project's research, development and operations activities.



**Dr. Ghassem Asrar to Visit  
Goddard**

NASA Headquarters, Associate Administrator for Earth Science, Dr. Ghassem Asrar, will give a presentation entitled "Earth Science Enterprise: The Vision for Near Term and Strategic Decisions".

The presentation will take place in the Building 8 Auditorium (Greenbelt) at 9 a.m. on Friday, November 2. Wallops employees may view the presentation on Wallops TV Channel 6. Questions may be called in to x66-9036.

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